

Second Regular Session  
Seventieth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 16-1152.03 Julie Pelegrin x2700

SENATE BILL 16-188

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SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Hill,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Williams and Sias

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Senate Committees  
Education

House Committees

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING INCREASING CHARTER SCHOOLS' ACCESS TO RESOURCES.

Bill Summary

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://www.leg.state.co.us/billsummaries>.)*

**Mill levy equalization among district public school students.** Beginning in the 2017-18 budget year, the bill requires a school district to distribute revenue it receives from ongoing local property tax mill levies equally, on a per-student basis, to the school district charter schools, with exceptions for revenue that is restricted to certain uses by voters.

**BEST requirements for charter schools.** The bill repeals certain requirements imposed on charter schools as conditions of qualifying for

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
*Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.*  
*Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.*

capital construction funding.

**Use of capital construction money.** The bill allows a qualified charter school to use state education fund money received as capital construction assistance to maintain buildings.

**Availability of buildings and land.** If a school district has authorized one or more charter schools and has an available or underused building or land, the bill requires the school district to provide notice to the district's charter schools and on its website of the availability of the building or land. A charter school or a charter school applicant may apply to the school district to use the building or land. The local board must review each application and, in a public meeting, approve or deny each application. If the local board denies an application, it must state the reasons at the public meeting and provide a written explanation of the reasons for denial to the applicants.

**Mill levy equalization - institute charter schools.** The bill directs the department of education to calculate a mill levy equalization payment in the amount of the per pupil share of the mill levy overrides of the institute charter school's accounting district. The state will pay the amounts, subject to annual appropriations.

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1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add 22-30.5-112.4**  
3 as follows:

4 **22-30.5-112.4. Charter schools - mill levy revenues -**  
5 **equalization - definitions.** (1) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE  
6 CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

7 (a) "ADDITIONAL MILL LEVY" MEANS THE NUMBER OF MILLS THAT  
8 A SCHOOL DISTRICT LEVIES THAT ARE IN ADDITION TO THE SCHOOL  
9 DISTRICT'S TOTAL PROGRAM MILL LEVY ESTABLISHED IN SECTION  
10 22-54-106 (2), BUT NOT INCLUDING MILLS THAT A SCHOOL DISTRICT MAY  
11 LEVY UNDER SECTION 22-40-110 OR ARTICLE 42 OR 43 OF THIS TITLE, AND  
12 THAT ARE AUTHORIZED BY VOTERS BEFORE, ON, OR AFTER THE EFFECTIVE  
13 DATE OF THIS SECTION.

14 (b) "PER PUPIL MILL LEVY SHARE" MEANS AN AMOUNT EQUAL TO

1 THE REVENUE THAT A SCHOOL DISTRICT COLLECTS FROM ITS ADDITIONAL  
2 MILL LEVY FOR THE APPLICABLE BUDGET YEAR DIVIDED BY THE SCHOOL  
3 DISTRICT'S FUNDED PUPIL COUNT AS DEFINED IN SECTION 22-54-103 FOR  
4 THE APPLICABLE BUDGET YEAR.

5 (c) "RESTRICTED REVENUE" MEANS REVENUE THAT A SCHOOL  
6 DISTRICT COLLECTS FROM ITS ADDITIONAL MILL LEVY, THE USE OF WHICH  
7 IS RESTRICTED BY VOTERS TO A SPECIFIC PROGRAM, TO STUDENTS  
8 ENROLLED IN A SPECIFIC GRADE LEVEL, OR TO THE TERMS OF AN  
9 AGREEMENT BETWEEN A THIRD-PARTY AND THE SCHOOL DISTRICT THAT  
10 GOVERNS THE USE OF THE REVENUE AND THAT EXISTED BEFORE THE  
11 EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SECTION.

12 (2) (a) FOR THE 2017-18 BUDGET YEAR AND EACH BUDGET YEAR  
13 THEREAFTER, EACH SCHOOL DISTRICT THAT AUTHORIZES A CHARTER  
14 SCHOOL SHALL DISTRIBUTE TO THE CHARTER SCHOOL ONE HUNDRED  
15 PERCENT OF AN AMOUNT EQUAL TO THE SCHOOL DISTRICT'S PER PUPIL MILL  
16 LEVY SHARE FOR THE APPLICABLE BUDGET YEAR MULTIPLIED BY THE  
17 NUMBER OF PUPILS, INCLUDING PRESCHOOL PROGRAM PUPILS, ENROLLED  
18 IN THE CHARTER SCHOOL FOR THE APPLICABLE BUDGET YEAR, AS  
19 REPORTED TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR THE APPLICABLE BUDGET YEAR  
20 PURSUANT TO SECTION 22-30.5-112 (1) (a). IN COUNTING THE NUMBER OF  
21 PUPILS ENROLLED IN THE CHARTER SCHOOL, THE SCHOOL DISTRICT SHALL  
22 COUNT A PUPIL ENROLLED IN KINDERGARTEN OR IN A PRESCHOOL  
23 PROGRAM AS AT LEAST A HALF-DAY PUPIL AND MAY, AT THE SCHOOL  
24 DISTRICT'S DISCRETION, COUNT A PUPIL WHO IS INCLUDED IN THE SCHOOL  
25 DISTRICT'S ONLINE PUPIL ENROLLMENT, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 22-54-103.

26 (b) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY PROVISION OF PARAGRAPH (a) OF THIS  
27 SUBSECTION (2) TO THE CONTRARY, IN CALCULATING THE AMOUNT DUE TO

1 A CHARTER SCHOOL UNDER PARAGRAPH (a) OF THIS SUBSECTION (2), A  
2 SCHOOL DISTRICT MAY SUBTRACT FROM THE AMOUNT DUE TO THE  
3 CHARTER SCHOOL ANY PORTION THAT IS RESTRICTED REVENUE IF THE  
4 CHARTER SCHOOL, DURING THE APPLICABLE BUDGET YEAR, CLEARLY DOES  
5 NOT PROVIDE THE SPECIFIC PROGRAM FOR WHICH THE RESTRICTED  
6 REVENUE IS AUTHORIZED BY VOTERS OR IF THE CHARTER SCHOOL, DURING  
7 THE APPLICABLE BUDGET YEAR, DOES NOT SERVE STUDENTS ENROLLED IN  
8 THE GRADE LEVEL FOR WHICH THE RESTRICTED REVENUE IS AUTHORIZED  
9 BY VOTERS.

10 (c) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY PROVISION OF PARAGRAPH (a) OF THIS  
11 SUBSECTION (2) TO THE CONTRARY, IN CALCULATING THE AMOUNT DUE TO  
12 A CHARTER SCHOOL UNDER PARAGRAPH (a) OF THIS SUBSECTION (2), A  
13 SCHOOL DISTRICT MAY SUBTRACT FROM THE AMOUNT DUE TO THE  
14 CHARTER SCHOOL ANY PORTION THAT IS RESTRICTED REVENUE BECAUSE  
15 IT IS SUBJECT TO A THIRD-PARTY AGREEMENT THAT EXISTED BEFORE THE  
16 EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SECTION; EXCEPT THAT, IF THE THIRD PARTY AND  
17 THE SCHOOL DISTRICT AMEND THE TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT TO ALLOW  
18 DISTRIBUTION OF THE REVENUE TO A CHARTER SCHOOL, THE REVENUE  
19 CEASES TO BE RESTRICTED REVENUE AND THE SCHOOL DISTRICT SHALL  
20 DISTRIBUTE THE REVENUE TO A CHARTER SCHOOL IN ACCORDANCE WITH  
21 PARAGRAPH (a) OF THIS SUBSECTION (2).

22 (d) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY PROVISION OF PARAGRAPH (a) OF THIS  
23 SUBSECTION (2) TO THE CONTRARY, IF, BEFORE THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF  
24 THIS SECTION, A LOCAL SCHOOL BOARD HAS ADOPTED A WRITTEN POLICY  
25 THAT DIRECTS THE SCHOOL DISTRICT TO DISTRIBUTE ANY PORTION OF ITS  
26 ADDITIONAL MILL LEVY REVENUE TO SPECIFICALLY BENEFIT STUDENTS  
27 ENROLLED IN ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION CAMPUSES, STUDENTS WHO

1 QUALIFY FOR REDUCED-PRICE MEALS UNDER THE FEDERAL "RICHARD B.  
2 RUSSELL NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH ACT", 42 U.S.C. 1751 ET SEQ., OR  
3 STUDENTS WHO HAVE INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAMS UNDER  
4 PART 1 OF ARTICLE 20 OF THIS TITLE, THE SCHOOL DISTRICT MAY  
5 CONTINUE DISTRIBUTING THE REVENUE FOR THESE PURPOSES, SO LONG AS  
6 THE AMOUNT DISTRIBUTED FOR EACH STUDENT IS THE SAME REGARDLESS  
7 OF WHETHER THE STUDENT IS ENROLLED IN A CHARTER SCHOOL OR  
8 ANOTHER SCHOOL OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT. IF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
9 CHANGES THE DISTRIBUTION OF REVENUE FOR THESE PURPOSES AFTER THE  
10 EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SECTION, THE SCHOOL DISTRICT SHALL  
11 DISTRIBUTE THE REVENUE IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH (a) OF THIS  
12 SUBSECTION (2). THE SCHOOL DISTRICT SHALL DISTRIBUTE ANY AMOUNT  
13 OF ADDITIONAL MILL LEVY REVENUE THAT REMAINS AFTER DISTRIBUTION  
14 FOR THESE PURPOSES IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH (a) OF THIS  
15 SUBSECTION (2).

16 (3) A SCHOOL DISTRICT MAY CHOOSE TO DISTRIBUTE A PORTION OF  
17 THE REVENUES IT RECEIVES FROM AN ADDITIONAL MILL LEVY TO AN  
18 INSTITUTE CHARTER SCHOOL THAT OPERATES WITHIN THE GEOGRAPHICAL  
19 BOUNDARIES OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT.

20 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-43.7-103, **amend**  
21 (7) as follows:

22 **22-43.7-103. Definitions.** As used in this article, unless the  
23 context otherwise requires:

24 (7) "Charter school" means a charter school as described in  
25 section 22-54-124 (1) (f.6) (I) (A) or (1) (f.6) (I) (B). ~~that has been~~  
26 ~~chartered for at least five years on the date its authorizer forwards an~~  
27 ~~application for financial assistance to the board on the charter school's~~

1     behalf.

2             **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-43.7-109, **amend**  
3     (3); and **repeal** (1) (b) as follows:

4             **22-43.7-109. Financial assistance for public school capital**  
5     **construction - application requirements - evaluation criteria - local**  
6     **match requirements.** (1) For fiscal years commencing on or after July  
7     1, 2008, the board, with the support of the division and subject to the  
8     approval of the state board and, in the case of financial assistance that  
9     involves lease-purchase agreements, subject to both the preliminary  
10    approval of the state board and the final approval of the capital  
11    development committee, regarding financial assistance awards as  
12    specified in this section, shall provide financial assistance as specified in  
13    this section subject to the following limitations:

14            ~~(b) The board may provide financial assistance to a charter school~~  
15    ~~that first occupies a public school facility on or after May 22, 2008, only~~  
16    ~~if the public school facility occupied by the charter school complied with~~  
17    ~~all public school facilities construction guidelines addressing health and~~  
18    ~~safety issues established by the board pursuant to section 22-43.7-107 (2)~~  
19    ~~(a) at the time the charter school first occupied the facility.~~

20            (3) A CHARTER SCHOOL THAT CHOOSES TO APPLY FOR FINANCIAL  
21    ASSISTANCE MUST APPLY DIRECTLY TO THE BOARD. A charter school shall  
22    notify its authorizer ~~that it intends to apply~~ IF THE CHARTER SCHOOL  
23    APPLIES for financial assistance. ~~at least four months prior to the~~  
24    ~~application submission deadline. The charter school shall forward its~~  
25    ~~application for financial assistance to its authorizer, which shall forward~~  
26    ~~the application to the board together with a letter indicating the~~  
27    ~~authorizer's position on the application~~ THE AUTHORIZING SCHOOL

1 DISTRICT FOR AN APPLYING CHARTER SCHOOL MAY SUBMIT A LETTER TO  
2 THE BOARD STATING ITS POSITION ON THE APPLICATION. The Colorado  
3 school for the deaf and blind shall apply for financial assistance directly.  
4 Financial assistance awarded to a charter school as a matching cash grant  
5 shall be provided to the authorizer, which shall distribute all financial  
6 assistance received as a grant to the charter school and may not retain any  
7 portion of such moneys for any purpose. All other financial assistance  
8 shall be provided in the form of lease payments made by the board  
9 directly to a lessor or trustee as required by the terms of the applicable  
10 lease-purchase agreement.

11 **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-54-124, **amend**  
12 (1) (a) as follows:

13 **22-54-124. State aid for charter schools - use of state education**  
14 **fund money - definitions.** (1) As used in this section:

15 (a) "Capital construction" means construction, demolition,  
16 remodeling, MAINTAINING, financing, purchasing, or leasing of land,  
17 buildings, or facilities used to educate pupils enrolled in or to be enrolled  
18 in a charter school.

19 **SECTION 5.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-30.5-104, **amend**  
20 (7) (e); and **add** (7.5) as follows:

21 **22-30.5-104. Charter school - requirements - authority.**

22 (7) (e) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraphs (b) and (c) of this  
23 subsection (7) ~~any~~ OR THE PROVISIONS OF SUBSECTION (7.5) OF THIS  
24 SECTION, A school district that has space in district facilities that is  
25 unoccupied ~~shall be allowed to~~ MAY sell the facilities or use the facilities  
26 for a different purpose and ~~shall not be~~ IS NOT required to maintain  
27 ownership of the facilities for potential use by a charter school.

1           (7.5) (a) NO LATER THAN NOVEMBER 1, 2016, AND NO LATER THAN  
2 NOVEMBER 1 EACH YEAR THEREAFTER, EACH SCHOOL DISTRICT THAT  
3 AUTHORIZES A CHARTER SCHOOL AND THAT HAS OR IS EXPECTING TO HAVE  
4 ONE OR MORE VACANT OR UNDERUSED BUILDINGS OR VACANT OR  
5 UNDERUSED LAND AVAILABLE DURING THE NEXT SCHOOL YEAR SHALL  
6 NOTIFY THE CHARTER SCHOOLS AUTHORIZED BY THE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
7 AND ANY PERSONS WHO ARE APPLYING TO THE SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR A  
8 CHARTER OF THE AVAILABILITY OF THE BUILDINGS OR SCHOOL DISTRICT  
9 LAND FOR USE IN THE FOLLOWING SCHOOL YEAR. THE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
10 SHALL ALSO POST THE NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY ON THE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
11 WEBSITE. NO LATER THAN FORTY-FIVE DAYS AFTER THE NOTICE OF  
12 AVAILABILITY IS POSTED ON THE WEBSITE OR AFTER RECEIVING THE  
13 NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY, WHICHEVER IS LATER, A CHARTER SCHOOL OF  
14 THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OR CHARTER APPLICANT MAY APPLY TO THE SCHOOL  
15 DISTRICT TO USE THE BUILDING OR THE SCHOOL DISTRICT LAND AS THE  
16 LOCATION FOR THE CHARTER SCHOOL. THE LOCAL BOARD OF EDUCATION  
17 SHALL REVIEW EACH APPLICATION FOR USE AND, IN A PUBLIC MEETING  
18 HELD NO LATER THAN NINETY DAYS AFTER THE SCHOOL DISTRICT ISSUES  
19 THE NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY, APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE EACH  
20 APPLICATION FOR USE OF THE BUILDING OR SCHOOL DISTRICT LAND. IF THE  
21 LOCAL BOARD OF EDUCATION DISAPPROVES AN APPLICATION FOR USE, IT  
22 MUST EXPLAIN AT THE PUBLIC MEETING AND PROVIDE IN WRITING TO THE  
23 APPLICANT THE REASONS FOR DISAPPROVAL.

24           (b) FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SUBSECTION (7.5), A BUILDING IS  
25 CONSIDERED UNDERUSED IF IT HAS UNUSED CAPACITY TO ACCOMMODATE  
26 TWO HUNDRED FIFTY STUDENTS OR MORE.

27           **SECTION 6.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 22-54-124.5 as



1 follows:

2 **22-54-124.5. Institute charter schools - mill levy equalization**  
3 **payments - definitions - reporting.** (1) AS USED IN THIS SECTION  
4 UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

5 (a) "ADDITIONAL MILL LEVY" MEANS THE NUMBER OF MILLS THAT  
6 AN ACCOUNTING DISTRICT LEVIES THAT ARE IN ADDITION TO THE  
7 ACCOUNTING DISTRICT'S TOTAL PROGRAM MILL LEVY ESTABLISHED IN  
8 SECTION 22-54-106 (2), BUT NOT INCLUDING MILLS AUTHORIZED  
9 PURSUANT TO SECTION 22-40-110 OR ARTICLE 42 OR 43 OF THIS TITLE.

10 (b) "DEPARTMENT" MEANS THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

11 (c) "INSTITUTE" MEANS THE STATE CHARTER SCHOOL INSTITUTE  
12 ESTABLISHED IN SECTION 22-30.5-503.

13 (2) (a) BEGINNING WITH THE 2016-17 BUDGET YEAR, IN EACH  
14 BUDGET YEAR FOR WHICH THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATES MONEY  
15 TO IMPLEMENT THIS SECTION, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL TRANSFER TO THE  
16 INSTITUTE, AND THE INSTITUTE SHALL DISTRIBUTE TO EACH INSTITUTE  
17 CHARTER SCHOOL, THE AMOUNT OF THE MILL LEVY EQUALIZATION  
18 PAYMENT THAT THE DEPARTMENT CALCULATES FOR EACH INSTITUTE  
19 CHARTER SCHOOL PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION.

20 (b) IN EACH BUDGET YEAR FOR WHICH THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
21 APPROPRIATES MONEY TO IMPLEMENT THIS SECTION, THE DEPARTMENT  
22 SHALL CALCULATE THE MILL LEVY EQUALIZATION PAYMENT FOR EACH  
23 INSTITUTE CHARTER SCHOOL BY DIVIDING THE AMOUNT OF ADDITIONAL  
24 LOCAL PROPERTY TAX REVENUES THAT THE ACCOUNTING DISTRICT FOR  
25 THE INSTITUTE CHARTER SCHOOL IS ENTITLED TO RECEIVE FROM THE  
26 ADDITIONAL MILL LEVY FOR THE APPLICABLE BUDGET YEAR, ASSUMING  
27 ONE HUNDRED PERCENT COLLECTION, BY THE ACCOUNTING DISTRICT'S

1 FUNDED PUPIL COUNT FOR THE APPLICABLE BUDGET YEAR, AND  
2 MULTIPLYING THAT AMOUNT BY THE NUMBER OF PUPILS ENROLLED IN THE  
3 INSTITUTE CHARTER SCHOOL FOR THE APPLICABLE BUDGET YEAR. BEFORE  
4 CALCULATING AN INSTITUTE CHARTER SCHOOL'S MILL LEVY EQUALIZATION  
5 PAYMENT IN EACH BUDGET YEAR, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL SUBTRACT  
6 FROM THE ACCOUNTING DISTRICT'S ADDITIONAL LOCAL PROPERTY TAX  
7 REVENUES ANY AMOUNT OF REVENUES THAT ARE SPECIFICALLY  
8 AUTHORIZED BY VOTERS TO BE USED ONLY FOR A SPECIFIC PROGRAM THAT  
9 THE INSTITUTE CHARTER SCHOOL CLEARLY DOES NOT PROVIDE DURING  
10 THE APPLICABLE BUDGET YEAR OR FOR A GRADE LEVEL THAT THE  
11 INSTITUTE CHARTER SCHOOL DOES NOT SERVE DURING THE APPLICABLE  
12 BUDGET YEAR.

13 (c) IN EACH BUDGET YEAR IN WHICH THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
14 APPROPRIATES MONEY TO IMPLEMENT THIS SECTION, THE INSTITUTE SHALL  
15 DISTRIBUTE TO EACH INSTITUTE CHARTER SCHOOL ONE HUNDRED PERCENT  
16 OF THE AMOUNT OF THE MILL LEVY EQUALIZATION PAYMENT THAT THE  
17 DEPARTMENT CALCULATES PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION FOR THE INSTITUTE  
18 CHARTER SCHOOL FOR THE APPLICABLE BUDGET YEAR.

19 (3) FOR EACH BUDGET YEAR IN WHICH THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
20 APPROPRIATES MONEY TO IMPLEMENT THIS SECTION, EACH ACCOUNTING  
21 DISTRICT SHALL REPORT TO THE DEPARTMENT:

22 (a) THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF ADDITIONAL LOCAL PROPERTY TAX  
23 REVENUES IT IS ENTITLED TO RECEIVE FROM THE ADDITIONAL MILL LEVY  
24 FOR THE APPLICABLE BUDGET YEAR, ASSUMING ONE HUNDRED PERCENT  
25 COLLECTION;

26 (b) ANY PORTION OF THE AMOUNT OF ADDITIONAL LOCAL  
27 PROPERTY TAX REVENUES THAT IS SPECIFICALLY AUTHORIZED BY VOTERS

1 TO BE USED ONLY FOR A SPECIFIC PROGRAM OR GRADE LEVEL; AND

2 (c) THE SPECIFIC PROGRAMS OR GRADE LEVELS FOR WHICH ALL OR  
3 A PORTION OF THE ADDITIONAL LOCAL PROPERTY TAX REVENUES ARE  
4 AUTHORIZED BY VOTERS TO BE USED.

5 **SECTION 7. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act  
6 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the  
7 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August  
8 10, 2016, if adjournment sine die is on May 11, 2016); except that, if a  
9 referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the  
10 state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act  
11 within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect  
12 unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in  
13 November 2016 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the  
14 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.